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Shortcomings in study claiming toxic metals in e-cigarette vapours

NEW DELHI, FEB 23 : Raising strong objection against the latest study claiming that common e-cigarette "vapours" contain lead and other toxic metals and may raise major health issues, an expert on Friday argued that the sample size used in the research was not appropriate.

The study led by scientists at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*, examined e-cigarette devices owned by 56 users and found significant number of these generated aerosols with potentially unsafe levels of lead, chromium, manganese and/or nickel. Inhaling these metals for a longer term has been linked to lung, liver, immune, cardiovascular and brain damage, and even cancers, the study claimed.

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"Several shortcomings were found in a similar study conducted by the same institute last year, including overestimating normal levels of exposure, not factoring in exposure to metals from daily activities, small sample size of products tested," Samrat Chowdhery, Director, Association of Vapers India (AVI), said in a statement.